

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Beatrice Miller, did you have a further question?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: Yes, I am sorry I have spoken often before on this floor. I am not an attorney and I am in a difficult position in relation to attorneys, but it seems to me that if there is a contractual relationship that this just upsets that contractual relationship.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Miller, I think that what Delegate Adkins has in mind, and he will have to respond, is that this amendment would have to be read in connection with Amendment No. 13. In other words, 'amendment No. 13 is already adopted, and if this amendment is adopted, the section with both amendments would read "employees shall have the right to organize and bargain individually or collectively through representatives of their own choosing subject to any regulations of the exercise of those rights that the General Assembly may prescribe by law."

I take it that delegate Adkins' answer is predicated upon the notion that the right to bargain individually would be just as much subject to regulation by the General Assembly as would the right to bargain collectively.

Is that the basis of your answer, Delegate Adkins?

DELEGATE ADKINS: I think that is quite an accurate statement of the situation. I do not think this amendment is anywhere near so catastrophic as the opponents have said.

I am not an expert in the field of labor or law, but if the General Assembly is to be given the power to control or regulate the manner of exercising the right given by the constitution, by the same manner they can control the exercise of the right by the individual as well as the group.

I do not think it would interfere with any existing relationships. It would give the legislature the right to act in the field of the group as well as the individual.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Miller.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: It seems to me as these words read concerning that situation, this would affect every existing contract in the State of Maryland, and I do not think that Delegate Adkins meant to do that.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: I was simply going to say that I certainly did not intend

to do that, and as I said earlier, rather cryptically, I do not consider this does that.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Bennett.

Just a minute. To whom do you wish to address your question, Delegate Churchill Murray?

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: In the absence of anyone else, the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: Is it a parliamentary inquiry?

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: You will have to decide, sir. I do not know.

THE PRESIDENT: State the question.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: I am obliged to precede this by a statement, and then if it becomes a question, fine.

*(Laughter.)*

I am sorry I do not know how else to approach it.

THE PRESIDENT: Make the statement and the question.

DELEGATE E. C. MURRAY: The initial statement is that I do not believe that this proposal which deals with a group of people, and is too apt to set one group against another, belongs in the constitution. On the other hand, Delegate Scanlan asks us to remember that this is the twentieth century.

Delegate Bamberger asks for the reasons that we oppose certain things. There are two or three things that seem to me should be clarified, and seem to me are probably bothering the majority of delegates here, and yet we are not touching upon them.

The question of the extent to which this enters municipal employment, county employment, state employment, and the catastrophies to which this can lead have not been touched upon. I have not asked a question, sir, and I do not know in what direction to answer it, but I do make the statement that if we could adopt the practice of the old Quakers, and try to arrive at some clear understanding, rather than put this on a competitive basis, we would do the State much, much more good I think.

Thank you for your tolerance.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Bennett.

DELEGATE BENNETT: Mr. President, could Delegate Adkins respond to one further question?

THE PRESIDENT: He no longer has the privilege of the floor unless there is a de-